

Message Text

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ACTION SCI-06

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FM USMISSION IAEA VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2853

INFO AEC GERMANTOWN

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

C O N F I D E N T I A L IAEA VIENNA 4031

EO 11652: XGDS 1

TAGS: TECH, IAEA, CI, SP

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE ENRICHED URANIUM SUPPLY TO CHILE
THROUGH IAEA

REF: STATE 90476

1. INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS WITH CHILEANS OVER POSSIBLE SUPPLY OF ENRICHED URANIUM THROUGH IAEA FOR RESEARCH REACTOR AT CENTER TO BE RUN BY CHILEAN ARMY CONTINUED ON MAY 9 AND 11. ASIDE FROM FURTHER DISCUSSIONS ON BASIC POLITICAL/ LEGAL PROBLEM RE COMPLIANCE WITH " NON-MILITARY PURPOSE" PROVISION OF AGENCY' S STATUTE, AGENCY STAFF FROM SEVERAL DIVISIONS HAVE ALSO BECOME INVOLVED IN DISCUSSIONS FROM STANDPOINT COMPLIANCE WITH PROVISIONS OF ARTICLE XI. E OF STATUTE, WHICH RELATE TO " USEFULNESS" OF PROJECT, ADEQUACY OF PLANS, FUNDS, PERSONNEL, HEALTH AND SAFETY STANDARDS, ETC.

2. 2. SINCE AGENCY ALREADY IS ACTIVELY INVOLVED IN SUPPORT-ING ANOTHER RESEARCH REACTOR PROJECT ASSOCIATED WITH THIS REACOTR, AGENCY BELIEVES IT MUST DEVOTE MORE THAN CASUAL INTEREST AS TO WHY ANOTHER CENTER IS NEEDED, HOW IT WILL REALTE TO EXISTING CENTER, CONCERN OVER DUPLICATION, ETC., WHICH IS PRIMARILY RELATED TO MATTER OF DETERMIN-CONFIDENTIAL

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ING "USEFULNESS" OF PROJECT, AS REQUIRED BY STATUE.
CHILEANS APPEAR TO BE COOPERATING FULLY IN PROVIDING
DETAILED EXPLANATIONS AND JUSTIFICATIONS IN ATTEMPTING
TO SATISFY AGENCY, INCLUDING ATTEMPTS TO SPELL OUT MORE
CLEARLY RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN ARMY AND CNEN IN CONNECTION
WITH NEW CENTER.

3. ON SURFACE, IT APPEARS THAT STAFF- LEVEL IS STILL
ENGAGED IN AN EFFORT TO ATTEMPT DEVELOP AN ACCEPTABLE
RATIONALE WHICH MIGHT BE USED IF DECISION IS EVENTUALLY
MADE THAT PROJECT SHOULD BE SUBMITTED TO BOARD OF
GOVERNORS, DESPITE KNOWN NEGATIVE PRELIMINARY VIEWS OF
DG AND HALL. THUS FAR, HOWEVERNM CHILEANS HAVE MADE
NO RPT NO FORMAL REQUEST TO AGENCY FOR SUPPORT OF THIS
PROJECT, AND STAFF- LEVEL INVOLVED FEEL AN OBLIGATION
IN MEANTIME TO BE OF ASSISTANCE TO OFFICIALS OF MEMBER
STATES SEEKING EINFORMAL ADVICE.

4. UNDERSTAND FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL POINTS EMERGED FROM
DISCUSSIONS:

A. PROGRAM OF NEW CENTER IS TO BE ADOPTED BY
"GOVERNMENT" ON ADVICE OF CNEN, BUT IMPLEMENTED BY
ARMY, WHICH HAS RESPONSIBILITY FOR OPERATING CENTER.

B. PROGRAM FOR CENTER CANNOT BE CHANGED UNILATERALLY
BY ARMY, IN VIEW CNEN ADVISORY ROLE AND LATTER'S
RESPONSIBILITY FOR PROMOTING PEACEFUL USES OF NUCLEAR
ENERGY IN CHILE.

C. CHILEAN REPS INDICATED THAT THEY MIGHT ALSO BE
WILLING TO CHANGE NAME OF CENTER, WHICH REFERS DIRECTLY
TO CHILEAN ARMY, IF THIS WOULD CONTRIBUTE TO SOLUTION
OF PROBLEM.

5. UNDERSTAND AGENCY STAFF IS PREPARING INTERNAL REPORT
REALTING TO QUESTION OF "USEFULNESS" OF CENTER AND
PROPOSED PROJECT, ON BASIS DISCUSSIONS HELD. CHILEAN
REP COL. ESTRADA, IN MEANTIME, HAS APPARENTLY RETURNED
TO SPAIN FOR FURTHER WORK IN PREPARING CLARIFICATIONS
AND OTHER DETAILS SOUGHT BY AGENCY STAFF. CHILEANS
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ALSO ARE RESIGNED TO FACT THAT JUNE BG CONSIDERATION
IS OUT OF QUESTION.

6. COMMENT: GIVEN SUBSTANTIAL INVESTMENT ALREAYD MADE
BY CHILEANS IN CONNECTION WITH THIS PROJECT, PLUS WHAT
APPEARS TO BE TREMENDOUS DRIVE AND INITIATIVE BEING
DISPLAYED BY DOL. ESTRADA IN PUSHING IT, WE SEE EVERY

LIKELIHOOD THAT THIS MATTER WILL BE WITH US IN ONE WAY
OR ANOTHER FOR SOME TIME TO COME. IF CHILE UNABLE
PUT AN ACCEPTABLE PEACEFUL FACE ON PROJECT, AND IF
AGENCY TURNS DOWN PROJECT (WHICH CHILEANS MAY EVENTUALLY
WANT AS MATTER OF RECORD), WE ARE INCLINED BELIEVE
THEY WILL NEVERTHELESS PRESS AHEAD TO TRY TO OBTAIN
REACTOR FUEL THROUGH WHATEVER MEANS THEY CAN FIND,
THUS SETTING STAGE FOR NUMBER OF POTENTIALLY SERIOUS
PROBLEMS FOR U. S. AND OTHE NPT SUPPORTERS. WE ARE
UNABLE TO PREDICT REACTION OF OTHER POSSIBLE SUPPLIERS
OF ENRICHED URANIUM. COMPLICATING FACOTR, OF COURSE,
IS THAT SPAIN, WHICH IS SUPPLIER OF RESEARCH REACTOR
INVOLVED, ALSO IS NON- NPT PARTY.
PORTER.

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